

CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON

Art Commission MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 28, 2009

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Arts Commission Members Present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelley Brittingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna DiFore	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rochelle Flynn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dane Johnson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victoria Hall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Justin

Staff Present:

Gina Kallman, Cultural Arts Supervisor

Guests:

Virginia Wright, Burien Resident
Robbie Howell, Burien Resident
Mike Martin, Burien City Manager
Randi Lacey, Burien Resident and Past Burien Arts Commissioner
Phillip Levine, Artist
Jim Hughes, Burien Business Owner

Meeting called to order.

Guest Presentation

Jim Hughes and Mike Martin presented an opportunity for donated public sculpture. The sculpture would be in memory of long time community leader Dick Dahlgard. Local artist Phillip Levine would be commissioned to create the sculpture. The City of Burien may be able to provide some matching funds along with private donations. Jim Hughes will be working on raising the money. The sculpture would be made of cast silicon bronze and would be approximately 6 ft tall. The work would be installed outdoors in a space in Burien to be decided. The cost of the project would be \$30,000-35,000 which would include installation, sculpture, and plaque. Mr. Levine hopes the work could be completed in the next 4 months. One possibility for placement would be near the location of the old Dicks Camera. The sculpture will be a gift to the city from the donors and the donors would like the city to choose where the best location would be. Dane mentioned that spaces along the 152nd right of way have been created for art installation. Other comments are that the work would be nice in a high traffic area. Kathy mentioned that 153rd needs attention as well and hoped that might be a possibility for placement.

Shelley asked if the city has a policy for memorials. Rochelle asked if the donation fulfilled the cities policy and procedures for donated public art. The Commission felt that the City and Parks Department should review the memorial policy. Five of the six commissioners support the donation of the art if the policy guidelines are being followed. The Arts Commission would like to not be involved with memorial language, but instead have the city look at memorial policy. The Arts Commission would like to spend time reviewing donation policy for public art.

Minutes

Minutes approved with corrections. Dane moves, Rochelle seconds. Motion approved

Ask for Volunteers: Burien “Economic Development “chapter of Comprehensive Plan

The City’s Comprehensive Plan is the overall planning document or blueprint that guides the development, growth, and management of the City. Each year, the City Council sets aside time in the fall to make “edits” to the existing Plan if needed. This year, the Burien Economic and Development Partnership (BEDP) is being asked to look at the chapter on “Economic Development” to see if there are any “edits”, changes, additions, deletions, etc. that they’d like to make. The BEDP then will submit their recommendations to the Planning Commission, who will do another review and submit final recommendations on the entire plan to the City Council for consideration. This year, the Arts Commission is being asked to also review the “Economic Development” chapter. Agreed-upon comments by the Arts Commission will then be submitted to BEDP by June 1. Four Arts Commissioners volunteered to work with Debbie Zemke on this project: Victoria, Donna, Shelley, and Robbie. Debbie will contact them about a meeting time.

AREAS OF FOCUS REPORT

Visual Arts

Arts Education—Victoria- Dale Copeland, welding instructor at Puget Sound Skills Center, is building a sculpture for B/ IAS (Burien Interim Art Space). The project has moved forward and Dale and two students spoke at the April 27th City Council meeting. The sculpture will be a 60 lb eagle that will be on a counter balance and will move, it will also have a 3 ft wing span. The eagle sculpture will be installed at B/IAS, and then go back to PSSC after the B/IAS space is dismantled. Victoria also reported on her visit to the Cedarhurst Elementary School Arts Corps program on April 6th. The kids were very excited to be working with artist Monad Elohim and to work with clay. Victoria also spoke to the Cedarhurst instructor about working with Victoria on the creation of a reuse garden for B/ IAS. Dane reported on the Door Project as another possible sculpture project for B/IAS. This project involves door sculptures from the Univ. of Washington Historical Society that have been covered with local history and waterproofed for outdoor installation. The UW Historical Society is looking for another historical group to take the Doors and do a display of that area’s history. Highline Historical may be interested.

Victoria reported on the April 14 school board meeting. Addressed at the meeting were large across the board cuts and a showing of support for arts programs. There was a very large attendance and support for the arts along with speakers addressing all the positive things the arts do for students. Victoria reported that the school board really listened but that cuts will need to happen, and that next year will be a very thin year. Shelley asked if the cuts to the arts programming were fair if programming was already very lean.

Public Art/ B/IAS— B/IAS—Dane reported on upcoming events being planned for the B/IAS space.

In October the event will be the “Night of 1000 Pumpkins”, an event focusing on Halloween and the Day of the Dead. The event will be a partnership between B/IAS, the Parks Dept, Highline Historical, and possibly Burien Arts. The event has the possibility of being a premier event with sand painting, cemetery spaces, alters, music, food, fire, and many pumpkins. Dane and Kathy are looking for lots of support for this event. Rochelle has a gate that might work for the cemetery.

Dane is also looking for core group to help with “Pieces of 8”, a concert of eight composers or musicians who will create pieces on site in August.

In September the Parks Department, B/IAS and local artists Denise Henrikson and Leslie Zenz will host the lantern festival “Arts-A-Glow”.

Other events: A 5k run during the Strawberry Festival, Sunday, June 21st that will use the site as its base, a Highline High School art class that will be installing painted hubcaps, and Sustainable Burien will be using the site as a temporary p-patch to show what can be done. The Monolith piece is on hold as the artist recently passed away but the piece will be installed if possible. The B/IAS space may also be involved in June 13th Town Square Opening event ...more info to come.

Helios Pavilion-- Artist James Harrison has reported in an e-mail that the steel work is now done and that he is waiting for the painting but is unsure of the timeline. He is also waiting for all of the concrete plaza work to be finished before he can come up to install the resin and the glass. The pavilion will be completed prior to the grand opening on June 13.

James also sent information about the philosophy of the piece: *“As I strove to make the piece connect more explicitly with Burien, I noticed something I found intriguing. The project has always been ‘in the shadow’ of Rainier, so to speak. I discovered that if you draw a straight line from Mt. Rainier to Burien, and continue it on at that same angle, it goes right over the old Bering Land Bridge, or ‘Beringia’. There is a variety of opinion on exactly how North and South America were first populated, but the Beringia theory is still considered a primary route by anthropologists. First, large game crossed via this peninsula, and naturally hunters followed them across. So the piece in effect demarcates this line, and this intersection between Native American and European migration.*

So in some ways it is the opposite of the first concept that Dan Corson presented. As I learned more about the area and who was here first, I was lead to the Duwamish tribe. I decided that I wanted to dedicate the piece to them, as a gesture of courtesy and respect.”

Performing and Literary Arts. – Rochelle would like to look at doing readings of poetry, stories, plays, etc. Possible locations are the Burien Art Gallery or the new downtown coffee shop (Burien Fine Press). BLT is offering free readings of the current works at this time. BLT could sponsor or co-sponsor readings in other spaces every other month. One could also be done in the B/ IAS space.

Special Projects

Burien Aesthetic Master Plan— Maureen and Donna presented to the BEDP at their March meeting regarding the banner and way finding projects. The BEDP was very enthusiastic about the ideas but needed to find a focus. Dan House of The Tin Room suggested they start small with a banner project in Olde Burien. Donna met with Printcom to get pricing information for the banners and then looked at the poles in Old Burien, which did not seem ideal for banners to hang, as poles are already being utilized by planters. Donna also recognized that Olde Burien is already a charming part of town. The Arts Commission wondered what space in Burien is in the most need of a beautification project, and should they take time on a quick Olde Burien project now, or do research first on a larger project in an area of greater need? Donna may spend time doing research on how other cities have done this, the materials used, etc. The Arts Commission wondered if we can get 153rd involved? Dane would like to see a recommended scope for the project. Shelley mentioned that the project could be done in phases.

LAA—Shelley reported on the March Local Arts Agency meeting in Issaquah which included a presentation on heritage from 4-Culture. “Destination Heritage” has funding for preservation and promoting heritage. 4-Culture has created brochures for tourists that include guides, maps, and audio sites. Anyone can call and get copies. Also, the state has received 15 million in grant money for arts recovery. 4-Culture is putting in an ask for money to help organization pay for existing festivals (pay for performers, etc).

May 13 SOCO meeting—Kathy reported that she is hoping many arts commissioners can attend this meeting for arts commissioners in South King County. Around 15 different cities will be represented. This will be a great chance to meet other arts commissioners and discuss what they do. The event will be 6:30-9:00, May 13th, at the Federal Way Community Center.

Staff Report

June 13 Town Square Opening--All are invited to attend the dedication of the Library, City Hall and Town Square Park on Saturday, June 13. Ribbon cutting will be at 10:00 am and all three of the Town Square Park public artists will be there and available to answer questions about their new artwork. The event will include tours of the new building, entertainment, food and more.

Where We Live Now--Why Burien? A Walk and Talk with Urban Planner Thomas Sievert
Thomas Sievert, German architect and urban planner, will visit the Seattle area in early July 2009 as part of Suddenly, a multi-faceted project on the new shape of cities. Sievert is the author of *Zwischenstadt* (1997) and of the anchor essay in an anthology, *Where We Live Now: an annotated reader* (2008). Both deal with the evolution of a different and rapidly expanding form of human settlement: the built-up areas that lie between the old historical city centers and the open countryside, the urbanized landscape or the landscaped city.

In addition to giving a public lecture, while Sievert is in the area, he will engage in a public talk with the Seattle City Council, will tour Burien and see it through community eyes, will meet with Burien city officials, and participate in informal conversations and community meals. His visit will also be accompanied by a visual arts exhibition, the release of a new book, and a film series.

Burien Event: Thursday, July 2nd

- 2:00-3:30 pm Meeting with city council, staff and other Burien visionaries
- 4:00-6:00 pm See Burien through community eyes—Walk the City
- 6:00-8:00 pm Conversation & Nosh

Meeting adjourned.